

Mint of the United States at Philadelphia

MELTING AND REFINING DEPARTMENT

Philadelphia, 9 October — 1884

Sir,

In order to answer your query as to the proper price of Black Lead Crucibles, employed in this Mint, I examined the subject at some Black Lead Works, where the Crucibles are made, and also the Crucibles in actual use. I concluded that the price of 3 cts. per N^o does not sufficiently remunerate the Manufacturer, when we consider the peculiar risks of the manufacture, and the necessity of our employing uniformly and exclusively the very best for melting Gold and Silver.

While unable at present to express my opinion what the fairest price should be, I will say positively that it should not be less than 3½ cts. per N^o.

Respectfully yours

J. P. C. Booth

Hon. A. Loudon Snowden
Superintendent